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OFF SECY OF DEFENSE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Timing Factors

1. In order to assure understanding of the timing factors which govern the implementation of military actions related to Cuba, the following list shows the time from the receipt of the implementation order to initiation of action on or over Cuba.

a. Low-level reconnaissance of selected targets. Reaction Time - 2 hours.

b. Reprisal strike to hit a single SA-2 site. Reaction Time - 2 hours.

c. Air strike against all SA-2 sites. Reaction Time - 2 hours (contingent on maintenance of present posture).

d. Full air strike. Reaction Time - 12 hours. (CINCLANT OPLAN 312).

e. Implement CINCLANT OPLAN 316. Reaction Time - Initial assault, Decision Day + 7 days. All assault and essential support forces ashore by Decision Day + 18 days, perhaps somewhat earlier.

2. Invasion planning is being concentrated on OPLAN 316 and measures to make a coordinated assault on Strike Day + 7 with the remainder of landing and essential support forces being put ashore in the shortest possible time. Because of the vulnerability of airborne forces while in flight to ground and aircraft fire, all or most of the 7 day interval between Strike Day and D-Day will be necessary to neutralize or eliminate the hostile air and ground capability.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

MAXWELL D. TAYLOR
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

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